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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, October 25 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 20 totaled an estimated 18.5 billion ton-miles, 0.1 percent below the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 42 weeks of 1979 was an estimated 726 billion ton-miles, 5.9 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended October 20 totaled 489,377 cars, 3.0 percent below 1978, but 0.6 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.3 percent in the South, but down 4.1 percent in the East, and 4.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1978, 17 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings showed an increase of 7,548 cars, or 7.1 percent, and grain loadings were up 3,370 cars, or 12.1 percent. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were down 4,922 cars, or 18.1 percent. Twelve of the 21 groups were up from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback revenue freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended October 13 totaled 36,657 cars, down 4.0 percent from the corresponding week of 1978, and 64,918 trailers and/or containers, 1.1 percent lower than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 41 weeks of the year was 1,472,697, 2.0 percent higher than last year, and 2,598,980 trailers and/or containers, up 4.2 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/20.[1]

	Loadings in Week ended October 20, 1979	Change from Corresponding Week 1978		Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars	Cars	Percent	Cars	Percent
Grain	31,321	I 3,370	12.1	D 2,502	7.4
Other farm products	6,197	D 1,726	21.8	I 893	16.8
Metallic ores	36,585	D 2,343	6.0	I 1,884	5.4
Coal	114,243	I 7,548	7.1	D 1,398	1.2
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	17,737	D 4,906	21.7	D 797	4.3
Nonmetallic minerals	15,847	D 916	5.5	D 273	1.7
Grain mill products	17,785	D 2,072	10.4	D 281	1.6
Food and kindred products	19,648	D 1,146	5.5	I 713	3.8
Primary forest products	22,020	D 521	2.3	I 1,049	5.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	11,327	D 1,598	12.4	D 478	4.1
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,973	D 793	3.6	D 182	0.9
Chemicals and allied products	28,355	D 771	2.6	I 972	3.5
Petroleum products	6,200	D 752	10.8	I 52	0.8
Stone, clay and glass products	19,172	D 1,106	5.5	D 418	2.1
Coke	6,730	D 651	8.8	I 110	1.7
Metals and products	18,576	I 781	4.4	I 1,159	6.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,326	D 4,922	18.1	I 724	3.4
Waste and scrap materials	13,858	D 414	2.9	I 54	0.4
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	13,216	I 140	1.1	I 368	2.9
All other carloads	46,873	D 2,118	4.3	I 1,528	3.4
LCL traffic	388	D 142	26.8	D 41	9.6
Total Cars Loaded	489,377	D 15,058	3.0	I 3,136	0.6
Corresponding week of 1978	504,435				

	1979	1978	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (41 weeks)	19,388,257	18,695,939	I 3.7
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
41 weeks cumulative	707.2	667.0	I 6.0
Week ended October 20	18.5	18.5	D 0.1
42 weeks cumulative	725.7	685.5	I 5.9

[1] The figures above include 12 railroads no longer considered Class I roads when the qualifying requirement for Class I companies was raised by the ICC from $10 million to $50 million in annual operating revenues as of January 1, 1978.

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